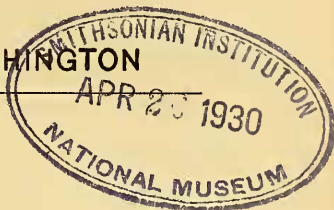


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONSPOLIA MENTAWIENSIA—THREE NEW BIRDS FROM
THE MENTAWI ISLANDS.BY J. H. RILEY.¹

In the fall of 1924, Mr. C. Boden Kloss and a party from the Raffles Museum visited Siberut and Sipora of the Mentawi Islands and made a general natural history collection. Dr. W. L. Abbott, who contributed to the support of the expedition, presented a series of the birds to the U. S. National Museum, and the Raffles Museum has forwarded the remainder of the ornithological material to Washington with the request that the combined series be compared with the rich material earlier collected by Dr. Abbott on other islands off the west coast of Sumatra. A preliminary account of the birds, in which eleven new forms were described, has been published by Chasen and Kloss.² In reworking the collection the present writer finds three additional forms from the islands that appear to require naming. These are described in advance of a report to appear later.

Muscadivores aeneus vicinus, subsp. nov.

Type.—Adult female, U. S. National Museum, No. 279,710, Sipora Island, Mentawi Islands, October 11, 1924; collected by C. B. Kloss.

Similar to *Muscadivores aeneus consobrinus*, of Nias, but breast and hind-neck washed with much deeper vinaceous-lilac and averaging somewhat smaller. Wing, 233; tail, 125; culmen from cere, 14.5 mm.

Remarks.—Either the various forms described from the islands off the west coast of Sumatra, except Engano, will have to be merged into one variable race, or the above additional form recognized. It is believed the following forms may be discriminated:

1. *Muscadivores aeneus mistus* Oberholser, Simalur Island.
2. *Muscadivores aeneus babiensis* Richmond, Pulo Babi and Pulo Lasia.

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²Ibis, 1926, pp. 269-306.

3. *Muscadivores aeneus consobrinus* (Salvadori), Nias, and Pulo Tuanku, Banjak Islands.
4. *Muscadivores aeneus vicinus* Riley, Batu and Mentawi Islands.

***Microtarsus melanoleucos proximus*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 279,830, Siberut Island, Mentawi Islands, September 27, 1924; collected by C. B. Kloss.

Similar to *Microtarsus melanoleucos melanoleucos*, from the Malay Peninsula, but of a deeper, less brownish, black. Wing, 82; tail, 70.5; culmen, 15 mm.

Remarks.—The female of this species only differs from the male in slightly smaller dimensions, and in the more brownish, less black, plumage. Four males from Siberut are blacker, less brownish, than one male from Malacca and two from Borneo. Three females from Siberut resemble the males from Malacca and Borneo; three females from Borneo are much more brownish than the same sex from Siberut; in fact, they can hardly be called blackish at all, but seal brown. The writer can detect no differences between the Malaccan and Bornean specimens. Four males from Siberut measure: wing, 82–88 (84.6); culmen, 14–15 (14.6). One male from Malacca and two from Borneo measure: wing, 84.5–85.5 (84.8); culmen, 15–15.5 (15.2) mm.

***Orthotomus sepium concinnus*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 279,856, Sipora Island, Mentawi Islands, October 15, 1924; collected by C. B. Kloss.

Similar to *Orthotomus sepium ochrommatus* of the Pagi Islands, but of a lighter, purer gray above and below; the head, cheeks, and chin, orange-cinnamon, instead of mikado brown. Wing, 48; tail, 42; culmen, 14 mm.

Remarks.—*Orthotomus sepium baeus* of Nias Island is darker and nearer *cineraceus* than the Pagi Island form. Apparently there is no difference worthy of recognition between Sipora and Siberut birds. Eight males from Sipora measure: wing, 43.5–50 (47.2); culmen, 14.5–15.5 (14.9) mm.

Three males from Siberut show the following dimensions: wing, 46–51 (48.7); culmen, 15–15.5 (15.2) mm. Five females from Sipora are: wing, 44–47.5 (45.9); culmen, 14–15 (14.4) mm. Three females from Siberut are: wing, 43–46.5 (45); culmen, 14.5–15 (14.8) mm.